Politics and Geopolitics of Trade: NAFTA and Beyond

a free public panel

Wednesday, November 15th, 2017, 6PM
Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre campus
515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, Room 7000 (seventh floor)

Simon Fraser University professors will address this topic to understand the main cleavages among the three partners renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Leslie Armijo (International Studies) will offer a broad picture of trade liberalization, from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1947) to the World Trade Organization (1995), to other agreements among Asian and Pacific countries. Chang Hoon Oh (Beedie School of Business) will discuss the regional nature of multinational businesses with particular attention to trade and investment agreements. Ted Cohn (Political Science) will zoom into Canada-U.S. trade relations since the 1800s, shifting between closer and looser ties, and question whether we find ourselves at a critical juncture. Do these changes help us predict what may happen in view of the uncertain future of NAFTA? Anil Hira (Political Science) will ponder about the election of Donald Trump and the rise of protectionism: is this an aberration or the reflection of a wider historical conjuncture? Gerardo Otero (International Studies) will ask which economic sectors have been the main beneficiaries of NAFTA and outline the most contentious issues in its renegotiation: Will these cleavages derail the deal or change the relation among the three partners?

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